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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

I. HEADING

Date: February 16, 1999

Subject: Emergency Response at Equilon Pipeline Spill, Bedford Park, Cook County, Illinois

From: Stavros Emmanouil, U.S. EPA, Region 5, Federal On-Scene Coordinator

To:

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POLREP #: #1 - Initial - PRP Cleanup

II. BACKGROUND

Response Authority: OPA
State Notification: IEPA
FPN #: G99008

NPL Status: Non-NPL
Start Date: 02/11/99
Completion Date: N/A

III. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Incident Category: OPA

B. Site Location: 8600 West 71st Street, Bedford Park, Cook County, Illinois

1. **Site description:** The site, Argo Plant (Argo), is an active oil production/distribution facility owned and operated by Equilon Enterprises, LLC (Equilon). Site coordinates are latitude 41°, 45', 46" N, and longitude 87°, 50', 29" W. The site is bordered by a GATX facility to the north, by a Great Lakes Corporation facility to the west, by Archer Avenue to the east, and by homes to the south. The spill location is on property owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), and is immediately bordered by Illinois Central Rail Road Company (ICRR) railroad tracks to the east, by the Illinois-Michigan Canal (I-M Canal) to the west, and MWRD property to the north and south.

2. **Description of threat:** Approximately 1,428 gallons of jet fuel were released to the environment from a 10-inch pipeline. Some of the released material impacted the surrounding soils, and the I-M Canal, which discharges into the Chicago Sanitary Canal.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results: Initial investigations determined that the vent valve for a pipeline blew, releasing product. Jet fuel allegedly discharged 20 to 30 feet into the air, and a portion of the lost fuel was dispersed by a 60 mile per hour wind.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

- A. **Situation:** Equilon has stopped the leak, placed absorbent booms and pads in the I-M Canal upstream and downstream of the spill location, and has contracted with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. (CH) to perform emergency cleanup activities. ICRR had reopened the affected tracks for rail traffic.

1. **Removal activities to date:** At approximately 1830 hours on February 11, 1999, site personnel detected a leak in a jet fuel pipeline. Site personnel stopped the leak and alerted local authorities. ICRR temporarily suspended rail traffic along the line. At approximately 2345 hours, START arrived on site, where an incident meeting was in progress. Meeting attendees included U.S. EPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Stavros Emmanouil; Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) representative Jim Clark; Greg Hermesen of Equilon; David Seaholm of MWRD; representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard; representatives from ICRR; and START.

On February 12, 1999, START collected a soil sample near the spill location. Skirted booms were placed in the I-M Canal downstream of the spill location. Upon returning to the site at approximately 1100 hours, START was updated by Equilon Hermesen of site conditions, the volume of lost product, and response activities in progress. START then began oversight, photodocumentation, and air monitoring activities. At approximately 1400 hours, U.S. EPA, IEPA, Equilon, and START met to discuss future cleanup activities. Equilon proposed to collect extent of contamination (EOC) samples prior to developing a remedial plan, and discussed potential remedial options. Equilon will deliver an abbreviated remedial plan to U.S. EPA by February 16, 1999, and will inform ICRR, MWRD, and affected utilities of any excavation near the spill location.

On February 13, 1999, CH broke up ice from the surface of the I-M Canal, and replaced the absorbent booms and pads deployed on February 12, 1999.

On February 15, 1999, CH replaced the absorbent booms and pads in the I-M Canal and removed contaminated soils along the canal bank to complete response activities.

2. **Current Situation:** The leak has been stopped; absorbent booms, absorbent pads, and skirt booms have been deployed in the I-M Canal to capture any material released to the surface water body.
3. **Enforcement:** U.S. EPA is the enforcement lead on this incident.

- B. **Planned Removal Actions:** Equilon will complete U.S. EPA-approved remedial activities.

- C. **Next Steps:** Equilon is developing an EOC investigation work plan. Equilon will develop a remedial plan based on EOC results and implement the plan after approval by U.S. EPA.

- D. **Key Issues:** N/A

V. Estimated Costs (through February 16, 1999):

	<u>Used</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>
START	\$2,250	\$14,000
U.S. EPA	\$600	\$10,000